

## The Salt Lake Tribune

Issued every morning by  
Salt Lake Tribune Publishing Company.  
TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:  
Daily and Sunday, one month, \$1.00  
Daily and Sunday, three months, \$2.50  
Daily and Sunday, one year, \$10.00  
Sunday Tribune, one year, \$5.00  
Semi-Weekly Tribune, one year, \$1.50

The Tribune is on sale in every important city of the United States. Readers of the paper may ascertain the name of the local agent in any city by telephoning this office.

A. C. Beckwith, Special Agent, Sole Eastern Advertising Agent, Eastern office, Tribune Building, New York; Western office, Tribune Building, Chicago.

Business communications should be addressed: "The Tribune, Salt Lake City, Utah." Matters for publication to "Editor The Tribune, Salt Lake City, Utah."

Telephone Exchange 284.

When you call to get your Tribune, telephone the city circulation department and a copy will be sent you by special messenger.

Entered at the Postoffice at Salt Lake City as second-class matter.

MAILED  
SUNDAY MORNING  
MARCH 10, 1913  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Sunday, March 9, 1913.

The decrease in the copper reserves ought to help the price.

The shepherds of Utah appear to be taking kindly to the National warehouse plan, recently commended in these columns. We believe that they will find their advantage in so doing.

Rebellious stubbornness in Mexico is said to be causing the Huerta government great anxiety. Probably so; it seems as though something of that kind had been present and a cause of much anxiety in Mexico for some time past.

Undoubtedly the strength of Colombia's case is the rash and foolish shout of Col. Roosevelt. "I took it!" And in pressing for a settlement of its claim, the Colonel is really the best reliance of Colombia and the worst for the United States.

By extreme urgency, Congress was able, at the sacrifice of much good work, to pass most of the regular appropriation bills. But nobody seems yet to know in what shape they finally passed. Those bills that failed will be dealt with in the special session.

The New York Yacht club would not unorthodoxly if it set up any quibbles in its treatment of Sir Thomas Lipton's challenge for the America's cup. He should be met in the same sportsmanlike, open-handed manner that has distinguished his challenge.

Mr. Taft is a private citizen; Col. Roosevelt is a private citizen. So far they are equal. But if any one desired sound judgment and capable advice on any question, of either public or private concern, the equality disappears at once. In such a case, no one out of bedlam could possibly prefer Col. Roosevelt as his advisor.

What suspicious people U. S. Senators are! Here just as the honest yeomanry of the country were about to visit Washington to see the sights, the silversmith of the Senate restaurant was all locked up and tinware substituted! A plain insult to the aforesaid honest yeomanry, and a niggardly denial of their right to a souvenir.

A new era in Washington is foreshadowed in this editorial note in the Rochester (N. Y.) Democrat and Chronicle: "Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Marshall are both opposed to Sunday entertaining. Thus another favorite Washington institution is endangered. The capital will hardly know itself when the new administration gets under full steam."

Portland Oregonian: "There is no system of direct pensions for Congressmen, but Senator Cullom, who will retire today at the age of 84, after nearly 30 years of service in the Senate, is to be made Illinois resident commissioner in Washington during the construction of the \$2,000,000 Lincoln memorial in Potomac Park at a salary of \$5000 a year."

The alleged combine of the berry men to cheat the public by the use of pint boxes (or cups) instead of the less-than-quart boxes used heretofore, while charging the same old prices, ought to be easy to suppress. The inspectors would only have to confiscate a few lots in order to bring the combine to a true sense of the maxim that "honesty is the best policy."

Col. Goethals preferred Panama to Washington as an official residence. At the isthmus he is monarch of all he surveys, and besides, his life position in the army is not interfered with. But in offering him the position of Secretary of War (if reports are true) President Wilson paid the Colonel the highest possible compliment, and demonstrated that he had no desire to place any one in authority over him, but as Secretary of War he would have the final say at Panama.

And now it appears that, in spite of the announced purpose of President Wilson to leave all official appointments to the Cabinet members who head the departments, he is yielding to the same old Senatorial persuasiveness, and is making appointments himself on the recommendation of Senators. As we said in commenting on his purpose as announced, it is dreadfully hard for a President to resist appeals from Senators; for by snubbing them a cabal could be easily and quickly formed in the Senate to refuse confirmations and

so force compliance with Senators' desires.

### THE SMOKE INVESTIGATION.

We are glad to see that the Commercial Club has taken up in earnest the investigation of the smoke nuisance. The evil of that nuisance, the bad name that it gives to this city, the destruction of property involved in it, all combine to bring the abatement of this nuisance prominently before the public as perhaps the most important step to redeem Salt Lake's good name for pure air and cleanliness, and make it attractive to visitors and residents. It is a fact that tourists, travelers, and home-seekers are commenting upon the pall of smoke which hangs over this city as an objection to settling here, both because of the undoubted unhealthfulness of that smoke pall, and of the destruction to property which it involves, and because of this, but primarily in order to make good sanitary conditions for those of us already here and to clear the atmosphere from deleterious substances, we commend unreservedly the action of the Board of Governors of the Commercial Club in determining on a thorough investigation of the causes of this smoke pall, and the possible means for its abatement.

We have suggested heretofore the co-operation of the State, the county, and the city. All these are necessary, and we trust that it is not too late in the legislative session to get from our lawmaking body the necessary authority to make the investigation thorough, giving power to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses, the production of exhibits, and the like, so that the investigation will be backed by sufficient authority to get to the bottom of the whole matter. The city is primarily both the contributor and the sufferer, but the county is a large contributor to the cause of that suffering, although the city itself contributes probably the main portion of the smoke trouble. The county, however, suffers proportionately with the city, and whatever is injurious to this city and county is injurious to the State.

The steps taken by the Governors of the Commercial Club should be backed by State authority, for it is necessary to have such backing in order to get the necessary testimony and make the thorough investigation that is required. We trust there will be no delay in pushing this work, and that the legislative authority will be promptly and unreservedly extended.

### FEDERAL INTERFERENCE.

This paper has from time to time taken occasion to protest against the assumption of jurisdiction by the Federal authorities, chiefly bureaucrats, over the non-navigable waters within the States. There has never been any question of the rightfulness of the control by the States of non-navigable waters within their borders. Accordingly, the State of Utah and other States of this interior region have legislated upon this matter without reserve, providing for the disposal and use of the waters within the State, the appropriation of such waters, and establishing rights to their use. We have urged that the State of Utah should remodel its water legislation according to the recommendations of the State Engineer, and that it should put in the amended law a distinct and clear assertion of the jurisdiction of the State over the waters in Utah. But this legislation appears to have failed for the present session, much to our regret, for there is no question but that there was need of the amended legislation recommended by State Engineer Tanner.

We note that the same question precisely has arisen in California with regard to the desire of San Francisco to make a water reservoir for the use of the city in the Hetch-Hetchy valley. The San Francisco Chronicle is out in a very strong article justly criticizing Secretary Fisher for his disapproval of the city's effort in this direction, and his veto upon its Hetch-Hetchy reservoir project. Referring to Secretary Fisher's comment upon the duty of San Francisco to come to terms with the Spring Valley Water Company and the assumption of authority in the matter by the Secretary of the Interior, the San Francisco Chronicle comments as follows:

"If it were only Fisher who made the quoted remarks, they might be ignored. Unfortunately they represent the influence of the Washington environment, where there is a growing determination to use unquestioned Federal powers—as control of the postoffice—or powers which are claimed—as the paramount control of public lands within a State—to compel the Federal Government to acquiesce in Federal jurisdiction outside Federal jurisdiction."

In this case Fisher proposes to use a power over public lands which he claims for himself or Congress to compel this city to act in a certain way in a controversy over which no Federal authority would even claim jurisdiction. That is Washington sentiment, which the people of all the States only need to realize in order to resist as a danger to the Republic whenever that disposition is shown.

In this case the way to resist is clear. By the laws of California the Hetch-Hetchy supply belongs to us, with all rights of way and easements, or the power to acquire them, necessary to the use of that water. All the land involved is within the boundaries of California and jurisdiction has been ceded to no part of it. The thing to do is to proceed under our State laws to take possession of what belongs to us, and as soon as resistance is offered proceed by appropriate legal measures to get a decision from the highest court as to whether the laws of California shall prevail within the boundaries of the State.

That is precisely what The Tribune has been urging the Legislature of Utah to do. The obnoxiousness of the assertion of Federal control by indirect means "to compel obedience to the Federal will in matters absolutely outside Federal jurisdiction," is the nub of the whole question. The Federal autocrats undertake to make the riparian control the absolute control of the water. That is, the ownership of the land, according to the Washington autocratic idea, carries with it the control of the water. That this is a noxious doctrine altogether there is no

doubt. It is a doctrine that has never prevailed in this country, and it is impossible that it should prevail with respect to non-navigable waters.

We trust that the city of San Francisco and the State of California will proceed as the Chronicle has indicated, bringing the matter to test before the Supreme Court of the United States. In such test we do not suppose there is any real doubt in the minds of any one who has investigated the principles involved, but that the city and State would win.

### CAPITOL COMMISSION ENDORSED.

It is eminently satisfactory to see that the State Capitol Commission has the unanimous endorsement of the joint Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and House of the Utah Legislature. The members of that commission appeared before the joint committee in indignant protest against the letter of Secretary of State Mattson, and proved conclusively that his estimates and figures were thoroughly misleading, where he undertook to show that the capitol construction and finishing will not require the amount of money that has been set aside for them. Even if it should be assumed in support of Mr. Mattson's position that the money set apart for the capitol construction will not all be needed within the next two years, the proof is easily at hand to show that that assumption is incorrect; for, since the contractors have assured the Capitol Commission that the construction will be complete and that sufficient rooms for the accommodation of the legislative session when it meets two years hence will be ready then, it is manifest that the appropriation must be mostly spent within the next two years.

It is also pleasant to see that the committee takes the same view that The Tribune did yesterday morning, and unanimously rejects the idea that it would be just as well to construct an inferior building, one that the people would be ashamed of as long as it stood. The magnificent site upon which the capitol is to be constructed requires a building of corresponding sightliness, and the legislators are, much to their credit, not in the least disposed to debase that site and make themselves blameworthy by restricting the building operations to a mere makeshift.

What the people of Utah want is a building that they will be proud of, one that will be a credit to them and to the State, and that will be not only commendable from an architectural and artistic standpoint, but that will be thoroughly safe in protecting against all accidents the archives of the State, and that will be roomy enough to accommodate the State's business for at least fifty years to come. The unanimous approval by the joint appropriation committee of the Capitol Commission's plan, and its vote of confidence in that commission are both excellent signs that the Legislature is not to be hoodwinked by any small dodge or back-fire proposition for the gratification of any one's pique or prejudice. By this vote a commodious, slightly, and safe capitol structure is assured, and we feel justified in congratulating the people of the State on this favorable outcome to a situation that ought never to have arisen.

### CHINA AND OPIUM.

There appears to be some friction between Great Britain and China with respect to the working out of the most recent opium treaty between those two powers. That treaty provided for the gradual decrease of the opium imports into China, if China would itself suppress in the same ratio the home-grown opium product. It was expected that in the working out of this treaty the opium traffic between Great Britain's India possessions and China would altogether cease in ten years, and within that same period the cultivation of the poppy in China for the purpose of making opium for commercial use would also be discontinued.

But it appears that there has been some miscalculation by the opium growers in India, and they are discontented with the working of the treaty. Evidently it was assumed in India that China would not carry out her part of the treaty, and that, therefore, the exports of opium from India would not be materially interfered with, in spite of the treaty. But China has been enforcing her part of the treaty with a savage rigor that indicates clearly the earnestness of both the old and the new governments in China on this question. A short time ago a report was that a woman found smoking opium in one of the interior cities in China was flogged and shot. The Chinese troops are also arresting and even killing farmers in China who do not conform to the order of the government and stop the cultivation of the opium poppy.

This action on the part of the Chinese government is a complete reversal of the East India opinion as to what China would do in carrying out the treaty, and there is corresponding discontent in India on account of it. If it had been found that China was not carrying out the treaty, India would have been quite content; but now that it is apparent that China is not only carrying out the treaty, but is determined to get the benefit of it in the gradual yearly restriction of opium imports from India until those imports are entirely stopped, India is shocked and dismayed.

In response to this sentiment in India the British government, so report goes, has represented to the new Chinese republic that an abatement of its zeal for the restriction of opium farming in China would be agreeable to Great Britain. The trouble is that a number of speculators in India, opium, taking the India view that China would do nothing effective towards the discontinuance of the opium culture, loaded

up on opium, expecting the traffic to go on just as before. They are now "full up" in opium holdings and want to unload. They, therefore, desire to have the Chinese market held open for them for a while until they can get rid of their accumulated supplies.

The incident affords another unpleasant chapter in British diplomacy. The scandalous opium war by means of which Great Britain forced China to accept opium imports from India, is fresh in the memory of all students of Oriental affairs; and now Great Britain is reported as willing to repeat on a smaller scale its activities in favor of those who deal in this pernicious drug. It is nothing to Great Britain that China is suffering distressful effects from the prevalence of the use of opium. What Great Britain desires is to help her opium farmers in India and the speculators in India who have accumulated large stores of opium in the hope that China would be found deficient in the requirements of the most recent opium treaty, and that they would be able to continue their traffic just as before. And now Great Britain, which is such a stickler for treaty obligation, and which has undertaken to hold the United States up to the contempt of the world because we would get some benefit for ourselves from the enormous expenditures in building the Panama canal, is found debasing herself and prostituting her influence in support of the traffickers in the miserable opium trade, even to the extent of disregarding the treaty. A high plane this is, truly, from which to deliver lectures to the United States upon the sacred obligation of treaties!

### BUSINESS AND TRADE.

The week has shown a change in weather to such an extent as to justify the feeling that spring has indeed come. Everything is correspondingly bright and cheerful.

The taking up by the Commercial Club of the smoke nuisance is regarded as one of the most important business moves of the time. There is no doubt of the retarding effect upon the development of this city and valley of the smoke bank that is seen so constantly over the city.

The assurance brought by State Superintendent Nelson of the good attendance there is to be expected at the National Education Association meeting in this city next summer is welcome news. The city is hoping for a great benefit to the teachers who will come here at that convention, as well as to itself.

The merchants are beginning their spring trade with the most optimistic expectations. Many openings are scheduled for this week. The past week was the best in trade for two months. Dry goods, department, and millinery stores have fine spring displays. The hardware and furniture stores are doing a big spring business. There is a heavy demand for spring goods, money is plentiful to pay for them, and collections are good.

Many hundreds of homes will doubtless be built in this city during the oncoming season. The fair weather has opened up the home building and realty activities. Large numbers of homesites have been bought during the winter, the business activity in these is now brisker than ever before, and inquiries almost swamp the realty men's offices.

Work on the excavation for the capitol is progressing well, and the contractors expect to begin during this month the construction work for the building. The high school on the east bench is getting on well, as is also the administration building of the State University.

An enterprise which affords great hope for the future is that of reclaiming about 100,000 acres of alkali and swamp lands contiguous to this city west of the river. The Legislature has passed a bill providing for drainage districts, and this is a powerful stimulant to the work. Experiments made by the Government in leaching out alkali lands have been very promising, and it is now considered as established that this land is probably better adapted to sugar beets and truck farm vegetables than any other in the State, when properly prepared. This project has been laid before the Commercial Club with a view of getting its endorsement and support.

Several large irrigation projects are under way in different parts of the State, all of which will be beneficial to the State and to this city. The defeat of the bill creating a public utilities commission to graft upon railroads has given the usual biennial relief to the railroad interests.

The Salt Lake Route announces a new train between here and Los Angeles April 6th. A large number of railroad officials have visited the city during the week, and the railroad season is opening in excellent form.

A decrease of slightly less than one million pounds of copper during February in the domestic visible supply was made known Friday by the American Copper Producers' Association. This was much more favorable than had been anticipated; but it was a result brought about largely by decreased copper production, which was practically double the increase in deliveries for consumption.

Reports say that a considerable amount of copper has been sold during the past ten days, much of it to be delivered during March. The large producers profess to believe that the present price of copper belongs at 15 cents a pound, at which range they have again established their asking price.

and exploiting new gold mining camps. There have been three new districts opened since the first of the year, each showing surface gold and silver ore that easily started stampedes, and quickly raised property values far beyond the mere prospect stage. Not all the promotions launched from these new camps can possibly fulfill expectations, but as in the case of former discoveries, it is probable that one new mine at least will be developed in each district. There appears always to be plenty of development money waiting to explore a Nevada gold property when other sections of the country seek financial support in vain.

Spring weather has stirred up operators all over Utah, and arrangements are being made to resume development work in several camps where the difficulties of winter preclude any effort. A summer of large production seems certain for Utah, with corresponding prosperity for producers and smelters alike.

The general commercial agencies report spring trade conditions as healthy, but conservatism in buying, with an eye to possible tariff changes.

Railroad earnings during four weeks in February increased four per cent as compared with the same period last year.

There is a gain in the pig iron production, and activities in supplying railroad orders are extraordinarily great.

Wool is quiet, with prices rather weak. The Boston market reports a decrease of ten per cent in prices, with little trading. The London wool sales show active competition, with firm prices.

The winter wheat conditions are reported generally favorable.

In the South preparations are made for planting an increased cotton acreage.

Stock market operations are dull, with the market unreliable and weak.

On the whole, the business outlook is quite satisfactory, and the industrial situation is much improved.

### INVITATION IN STYLE.

It appears that former President Porfirio Diaz of Mexico is to be invited in style to come back to his native country. Provisional President Huerta is about to send an invitation to former President Diaz which will be borne by a delegation. A platoon of cadets of the military academy, accompanied by one or two prominent officials, are to carry the invitation, and the grim old warrior is expected to accept and return. He is now in Egypt, but will return to his residence in Paris with the opening of spring, some time during the present month. And it is expected that there the official delegation will see the old man and extend to him officially the invitation which President Huerta sends.

It is curious to see the undisputed prominence which President Huerta has attained in Mexico. No one seemed to think of him as "the man of the hour" until all at once he came forward as that man. He rose to high rank in the

Mexican army under the administration of Porfirio Diaz, and remained true to him until he saw that the Diaz cause was hopeless. Then he favored Madero, and was selected by Madero to conduct Diaz to Vera Cruz at the time that Diaz went into exile. Huerta and former President Diaz are said to be warm personal friends, and the former dictator likes Huerta all the better, now that he has turned to the support of his nephew, Felix. The situation in Mexico seems to be favoring Huerta more and more all the time, and the general pacification of the country, which seems in fair progress, will allow him a free hand in the suppression of the insurrections in Sonora and Coahuila.

### AGRICULTURAL CREDITS.

President Taft in his recent message dwelt very strongly upon the need of banking facilities for agricultural communities, and he cited the examples of Germany and of France as extending agricultural credits in a way that would be beneficial and profitable both to farmers and to money lenders in the United States. Others have followed in the line of the President's talk, and all have urged the need, as well as the benefit, of improved agricultural credits. Such credits would enable the farmers to put in needed improvements and would make their farms more valuable and more substantially productive, because the farmers could, by the expenditure of the money borrowed at low interest and on long time, put their farms in the highest condition of productivity. There can be no doubt of the sound wisdom and economic benefits so urgently insisted upon by President Taft in the extension of agricultural credits.

But in this country, while it is true that we do not have the system of Germany or of France, we have at least a beginning of such a system in the work of some insurance companies. The recent meeting of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents discussed methods of extending agricultural credits, and it was developed that there is a good deal of this sort of thing done by at least one of the great insurance companies, which makes long-time farm loans. This is surely an important beginning, and it is to be hoped that other insurance companies will also extend their operations in the same direction. But the difficulty to be noted primarily in insurance companies doing this sort of work is that the rates of interest which they will receive from the farmers are not high enough to meet the requirements in all circumstances of the insurance companies. For, those companies have liabilities towards their policyholders that must be met, and those liabilities do not admit at all times of the loaning of large sums of money to farm co-operative societies, which ought to be formed in order to get the best results in agricultural farm credits. But those concerns which have large accumulations of money and which have no fixed liabilities with regard to the income from that money, could well establish agri-

cultural credit banks, lending the money at two to three per cent interest to farmers annually, and this would be a burden to the farmers, and to the country having immense sums of money to loan, the revenue would be added for all needful purposes. Of course, as a rule the States do exempt mortgage loans from taxes; so that a proper system of agricultural credits would be the great desideratum the lending of large sums of money at very low rates of interest, for long periods of time.

The United States is behind the advanced nations of the world in particular, and there should be strenuous efforts made to catch up. The national banks, the State banks, the insurance companies, should all be encouraged to open branches for agricultural loans, and these should be treated on a different basis from the ordinary business of the banks. President Taft, through the studies that he and his commissioners have made, is clearly the right track; what this country now more than anything else, is an agricultural credit system as well as for the provision and insurance of farmer such money as he may need to improve and bring his farm up to the highest productive capacity, paying low interest as possible for the money borrowed.

French racemen are evidently of the superiority of American horses, as they have adopted American rules under which it is hoped that American horses can be kept off French tracks.

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A decrease of slightly less than one million pounds of copper during February in the domestic visible supply was made known Friday by the American Copper Producers' Association. This was much more favorable than had been anticipated; but it was a result brought about largely by decreased copper production, which was practically double the increase in deliveries for consumption.

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In striking contrast to the general dullness of the mining industry of the West is the activity and optimism displayed by Nevada operators in opening

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